(d) if so, what Government of India is planning to do in the light of the dismissal of appeal and principal investigating officer's opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. The Session's Judge, Kuala Lumpur, had in his order dated December 2, 2002, discharged Ottavio Quattrocchi of the extradition proceedings against him on technical grounds. This order was upheld by the Court of Appeal, Kuala Lumpur on April 30, 2003 as also by the Federal Court of Malaysia on March 31, 2004.

(c) There is no report of an official statement having been made by any Swedish investigation officer of Bofors.

(d) A Red Corner Notice issued against Ottavio Quattrocchi is in force.

Most Favoured Nation Status to India by Pakistan

1701. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has indicated that very shortly it is going to confer the 'most favoured nation' status to India;

(b) if so, the details of the move; and

(c) in what way it would help India and Pakistan bilaterally to cement bilateral relations and also to increase the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Although India continues to extend Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status, Pakistan has not reciprocated the gesture despite its obligations under the WTO. Government are of the view that grant of MFN status to India by Pakistan would not only contribute to normalization and promotion of trade and economic relations between the two countries, but also help create environment conducive to addressing more difficult issues.